

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 072264
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
OC-06 CCO-00 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 /068 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:RFILLING:JJ
APPROVED BY AF:DBBOLEN
AF/E:RSPOST

-----020120Z 021042 /22

O 020020Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 072264

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PROP, CASC, ET, US

SUBJECT: EXPULSION OF TWO U.S. CITIZENS AS ALLEGED CIA
AGENTS

REF: ADDIS ABABA 1911 AND 1944

1. MORNING OF APRIL 1 DEPARTMENT OFFICER TELEPHONED
RICHARD HAMMOND IN DETROIT WHO PROVIDED DETAILED ACCOUNT
OF HIS AND CARL HAMILTON'S EXPERIENCE IN ETHIOPIA. BOTH
MEN ARE SWIMMING INSTRUCTORS AND PART-TIME REAL ESTATE
SALESMEN IN DETROIT. FOLLOWING VISITS IN ISRAEL AND
ATHENS THEY WENT TO ETHIOPIA AS TOURISTS TO PURSUE THEIR
SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE FALASHAS, ETHIOPIA'S BLACK JEWISH
COMMUNITY. ALL THEIR TRAVELS IN ETHIOPIA WERE CAREFULLY
ARRANGED THROUGH TRAVEL AGENTS AND THEY MAINTAINED THEY
DID NOTHING WHICH COULD CONCEIVABLY HAVE DRAWN SUSPICION
TO THEM. THEIR ACTIVITIES IN ETHIOPIA WERE AS FOLLOWS:
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 072264

MARCH 18: ARRIVED ADDIS FROM ATHENS AND REGISTERED AT
HILTON HOTEL FOLLOWING WHICH THEY REGISTERED AT EMBASSY.
STAYED IN ADDIS AS TOURISTS UNTIL MARCH 22.

MARCH 22: HAD MADE ARRANGEMENTS THROUGH TOURIST BUREAU
TO TRAVEL BY BUS TO GONDAR WITH GUIDE BUT WHEN GUIDE

FAILED TO SHOW UP AT HOTEL, HAMMOND AND HAMILTON BOUGHT AIRLINES TICKETS TO GONDAR. THEY WERE MET ON ARRIVAL IN GONDAR BY MANAGER TARAR (SIC) HOTEL. AFTER ARRIVING AT HOTEL AT NOON THEY UNPACKED AND WENT DOWN FOR LUNCH AT 12:30. BACK IN THEIR ROOM AT 2:00 P.M., WHILE BEGINNING A NAP THE MANAGER ASKED THEM TO STEP DOWNSTAIRS TO SIGN SOME PAPERS. HAMILTON THEN WENT DOWNSTAIRS. SHORTLY AFTER MANAGER AGAIN KNOCKED AT DOOR SAYING THAT HAMMOND WOULD ALSO HAVE TO COME TO THE DESK. WHEN HAMMOND GOT DOWNSTAIRS HE FOUND HAMILTON PINNED AGAINST THE WALL BY SOLDIERS WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS. THEY WERE THEN TAKEN TO THE POLICE STATION. THEIR ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THEIR ACTIVITIES IN ETHIOPIA WERE WRITTEN DOWN. WHEN THEY REFUSED TO SIGN THE STATEMENT WRITTEN ONLY IN AMHARIC, SAYING THEY COULD NOT READ IT, THE INTERPRETER INSISTED IT CONTAINED ONLY THOSE STATEMENTS WHICH THEY HAD MADE. AT THIS POINT HAMMOND AND HAMILTON FELT THAT IN TENSE CIRCUMSTANCES THEY WOULD BE PRUDENT TO SIGN. THEY WERE THEN TAKEN TO PRISON OVERNIGHT WHERE THEY REMAINED THROUGH THE FOLLOWING DAY. FROM THE BEGINNING THEY DEMANDED TO HAVE ACCESS TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY WHICH WAS DENIED. THEY WERE NOT TOLD WHY THEY WERE ARRESTED. STILL PHOTOS WERE TAKEN OF BOTH MEN.

MARCH 24: HAMMOND SAID THAT BOTH HE AND HAMILTON WERE BRUTALLY TORTURED AT THE PRISON IN GONDAR. WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS "CHINESE HANDCUFFS" WERE APPLIED TO THEIR WRISTS, THEY WERE TRUSSED UP IN AN UNCOMFORTABLE POSTURE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 072264

AND HUNG UPSIDE DOWN AND BEATEN WITH WHIPS. UNDER THE STRESS OF THIS TORTURE BOTH MEN ADMITTED THAT THEY WERE ETHIOPIANS AND CIA AGENTS INFILTRATED INTO THE COUNTRY TO WORK AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT. AT ONE POINT THEY WERE PLACED IN CHAIRS AGAINST THE WALL AND SERIOUSLY FEARED THAT THEY WERE TO BE EXECUTED.

MARCH 25: HAMMOND AND HAMILTON WERE SENT BACK TO ADDIS AT 2:00 P.M. WHERE THEY ARRIVED AT 5:00 P.M. AT THIS POINT THEY WERE TOLD THAT THEY HAD BEEN ARRESTED BECAUSE THEY DID NOT HAVE PROPER PERMITS TO VISIT GONDAR. THEY PROTESTED TO NO AVAIL THAT NEITHER HOTELS NOR TRAVEL AGENTS IN ADDIS THROUGH WHICH THEY HAD MADE THEIR ARRANGEMENTS HAD EVER MENTIONED NECESSITY OF OBTAINING SUCH PERMITS. THEY WERE DETAINED FIRST NIGHT IN ADDIS AT WHAT HAMMOND DESCRIBED AS A PALACE NEAR THE HILTON HOTEL.

MARCH 26: HAMMOND AND HAMILTON WERE MOVED TO A DIFFERENT JAIL, AGAIN DENIED ACCESS TO EMBASSY AND WERE INTERROGATED

BY A MAN WITH A PATCH OF WHITE HAIR BEHIND HIS RIGHT EAR.
THEY REMAINED IN THAT JAIL FOR THREE DAYS.

MARCH 29: THEY WERE FINALLY TOLD THEY WOULD BE DEPORTED
BY PLANE. BOTH STILL AND MOVING PICTURES WERE TAKEN OF
THEM.

MARCH 30: PRIOR TO PUTTING HAMMOND AND HAMILTON ON A
PLANE WITH INSTRUCTIONS THAT THEY NOT BE PERMITTED OFF
BEFORE LONDON, ALL OF THEIR FILM WAS CONFISCATED.

2. HAMMOND GAVE IMPRESSION ON TELEPHONE OF BEING SERIOUS,
INTELLIGENT AND LEVEL-HEADED INDIVIDUAL. HE SAID HE STILL
HAS HEAVY MARKS ON WRIST AS WELL AS SEVERAL "BLOOD CLOTS"
FROM TORTURING. HE WAS VISITING HIS PHYSICIAN ON APRIL L.

3. DEPARTMENT WILL ATTEMPT TO MAKE DIRECT CONTACT WITH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 072264

HAMMOND AND HAMILTON TO OBTAIN FULL DEPOSITION FROM THEM.
WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT THE VERACITY OF ABOVE ACCOUNT
PROVIDED BY HAMMOND.

4. GIVEN THE SERIOUS NATURE OF THE ABOVE CIRCUMSTANCES
YOU SHOULD PROTEST TO EPMG ON HIGHEST LEVEL FEASIBLE, AT
LEAST MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. YOU SHOULD STRESS
THAT THIS IS THE MOST SERIOUS MISTREATMENT OF AMERICAN
CITIZENS BY ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES TO COME TO OUR KNOW-
LEDGE.
CHRISTOPHER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPULSION, HUMAN RIGHTS, ALLEGATIONS, ESPIONAGE AGENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE072264
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RFILLING:JJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770113-0970
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770496/aaaadfgd.tel
Line Count: 150
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bb868bab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ADDIS ABABA 1911
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2920257
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXPULSION OF TWO U.S. CITIZENS AS ALLEGED CIA AGENTS
TAGS: PROP, CASC, ET, US, CIA, (HAMMOND, RICHARD), (HAMILTON, CARL)
To: ADDIS ABABA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bb868bab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009